

Amendment No. 1 to SB1135

Kelsey  
Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 1135**

**House Bill No. 745\***

by deleting all language after the caption and substituting the following:

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created public health and economic crises in the United States and in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Tennesseans be armed with the skills necessary to survive and compete in a post-pandemic workforce; and

WHEREAS, *Site Selection* Magazine cites ACT WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) as the way for working-age adults in rural areas to demonstrate their personal career aptitude and the readiness of their communities for corporate investment; and

WHEREAS, the State recognizes that many employers require the NCRC as a condition of employment; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to pursue the industry-recognized, nationally portable NCRC will provide Tennesseans access to the jobs necessary for their recovery from the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of the Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010, the NCRC aligns with the State's vision to increase the number of Tennesseans that earn a postsecondary credential in order to remain economically competitive nationally and globally; and

WHEREAS, the ability to attract business and industry into the State and its municipalities will aid the State in its recovery from the crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing the State to achieve a statewide Work-Ready Community designation; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Work Ready Opportunity Program."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6001(b), is amended by deleting subdivision (3) and substituting:

(3) LEAs and public charter schools shall provide each student participating in an assessment pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) the opportunity to:

(A) Subject to appropriation, retake the assessment one (1) additional time prior to graduation; and

(B) Take nationally recognized assessments which assess and certify students' career readiness as a strategy for providing students more choice in choosing a career pathway, such as the ACT WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) examinations.

SECTION 3. The state board of education is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this act. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 4. This act is not an appropriation of funds, and funds shall not be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 5. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.